



MILATARI NEWSLETTER

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NEXT MEETING

SATURDAY, October 16, 1982
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FEATURES THIS ISSUE

USING THE YELLOW CONSOL KEYS
- by Don Wilcox -

PRESIDENT'S RAM

PUZZLE # 3

MINDSTORMS - Children, Computers, & Powerful Ideas
a book review

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INTERMEDIATE BASIC CLASS - PART 1

Our education, Linda Scott has completed our beginners basic instruction and the classes now move into the intermediate level. The class begins at 3PM. Be sure to bring your ATARI Basic manuals.

MILATARI HAS A ON-LINE BULLETIN BOARD

See details in President's *PAR*.

WIN A VOICEBOX™

At this months meeting we will raffle off a VOICEBOX(tm) by The Alien Group. Valued at \$169, it plugs into your ATARI's serial port and talks directly through your TV.

Raffle tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at the next meeting. The drawing will be held at the end of the October business meeting.

The proceeds will be used by the club to expand our club library.

BRAIN PUZZLE

This feature will appear in the newsletter each month. Monthly, a new puzzle will be presented along with a review of the previous months' puzzle.

The puzzles are selected to show you ways to have fun and learn with your computer. The proper method to solve these puzzles requires the writing of a computer program to find the answer. To further encourage you, we will award the first winner of each contest a blank disk or tape - their choice!

What we would like (besides the right answer) is a few tidbits about how you solved the problem, such as: what language, how many statements, and how long did it take the computer to arrive at the answer.

The correct entry bearing the earliest postmark will be considered the winner. No entries accepted after midnight, October 29, 1982. All entries become the property of MILATARI. Winner will be awarded one blank disk or tape. In the event of a tie, more than one winner may be selected. Respond only by mail. No phone calls please.

Address your entry to:

MILATARI PUZZLE
P.O. Box 1191
Waukesha, WI 53187

PUZZLE # 3

THE PYRAMID OF CANNONBALLS

An early procedure for generating random numbers, proposed by John von Neumann, was the "middle of the square" method. Starting with a four-digit integer, the middle four digits of the square of that integer are then chosen as the next integer. Then the process is repeated. For example, if the starting number 1,234 is chosen,

1,234-->(1,234)² = 1,552,756-->5,227
5,227-->(5,227)² = 27,321,529-->3,215
3,215-->(3,215)² = 10,336,225-->3,362
3,362--> etc.

However, this method is not successful because it tends to produce short sequences that repeat. In fact some four-digit numbers were found that have themselves as the middle part of their squares. Each produces a sequence of repetitions of the same four-digit number and is certainly not random.

Can you find those numbers??

(There are three four-digit numbers that have themselves as the middle part of their squares!)

PUZZLE # 2 WINNER

Congratulations to Robert Kastelic for sending in the first correct solution to puzzle # 2. Bob, pick up your diskette or cassette at the next meeting.

Bob's program: (programmed in basic)

```
10 TOT=9999
20 LAY=1
30 BALL=1
40 BALL=BALL+1
50 I=BALL*BALL
60 TOT1=TOT-I
70 IF TOT1<0 THEN 100
80 TOT=TOT-I:LAY=LAY+1
90 GOTO 40
100 ? "LAYERS = ";LAY;" REMAINDER = ";TOT
110 END
```

* * *

SUPPORTING BUSINESSES

The following businesses offer a discount to members of MILATARI. You must show your valid MILATARI membership card to receive your discount.

MICROCOMPUTERS and MAGIC
256 1/2 West Broadway Street
Waukesha, Wis 53186
(414)548-0700

MICROAGE COMPUTER STORE
2675 North Mayfair Road
Wauwatosa, Wis 53226
(414)257-1100

LIBERTYVILLE VIDEO and COMPUTER CENTER
Attn: Steve Singer
Cambridge Plaza
Libertyville, Ill 60048
(312)367-8668

President's RAM

by Gary Nolan, Milatari President

Well that time of month is here when I again take word processor in hand and try to put my thoughts on disk. Since the notes that I collect during the month tend to become scattered, I sometimes forget to put everything into the column. When this happens the column is short and doesn't fill the space allotted to me in the newsletter. And when this happens our editor gets nervous, then as the deadline nears, anxious, then at the deadline mad. AT ME! Just because I didn't fill all that stupid space and he ends up with a big hole in the newsletter. SO! To keep Dave from getting upset with me, after all we all know what a kind, sweet guy I am (ask my children), PLEASE HELP!!! Send those contributions (articles, reviews, programs) to Dave, to act as kind of a tranquilizer, and to soothe his nerves when I come up short. It's really kind of nice to see your own words being sent out there. So HELP!!!!!

Onward!!

Some newsbits. Toshiba has announced a floppy disk system capable of storing 3 meg. on a single disk. THREE MEG! This is a "Floppy" system not a hard disk. The new system writes information on the disk in an entirely new way. Vertically instead of the normal horizontal method. What it really involves is the way the magnetic coating is applied to the surface of the disk. Got that? Good! Impressed? When I said floppy, I should have mentioned that their floppy is 3 1/2 inches, not 5 1/4. Now that's impressive.

MODEM OWNERS/USERS: Did you know that MILATARI has its own Bulletin Board? Yes we do! Temporarily Joe Kasper has it up and running from 10pm until 7am 7 days a week. Joe's telephone number is 782-9041. So give it a call, leave a message, help it grow. Bill Simotti has already volunteered to help with its care and running. We would like to hear from some other members with auto answer modems as to the possibility of setting up either a rotating or permanent home for it.

Staying with the subject of modems, and seeing as how Telecommunications is becoming the newest thing. I'd like to ask all modem owners to prepare yourselves for the November meeting. (I do hope this is enough notice) At that meeting we would like to have users review the following subjects;

TYPES: Acoustic or Direct-connect

USES: Comuserve, The Source, BBS's, Mem/mem hook-ups

SOFTWARE: Telelink, T.H.E., Chameleon, ECT

BRANDS: Hayes, Bizcomp, ATARI, Anchor, ECT

FEATURES: Autodial/answ., Baud rate select, ECT

LIKES/DISLIKES

Get it ready. About five minutes for each presentation should do

it. And to save some duplication of effort, if all interested parties would call the MILATARI BBS and leave your name and brand/model #, different brands could combine thier presentations.

Before I forget to mention it, the library now has a copy of AMODEM3. This is a public domain modem package that allows two ATARI computers to talk to each other. Several members, myself included, have tried it and found it to be very good.

Not much responce to the VOICEBOX raffle idea. YET. If you're interested please let us know. We can't plan anything untill we hear from you.

More newsbits: ATARI announced what is believed to be the largest single order for home computers by a school system. Dade County, FL, has placed an order with ATARI for 426 "800" computers and peripherals, worth more than \$470,000. This brings the number of ATARI computers in the school system to about 650. More than 15,000 students from K thru 12th grade will use the systems each year. How would you like to be in a Users group that size?

Speaking of ATARI's in school. Nick Liberski, Joe Kasper and myself visited with the people in charge of the ATARI's installed at Greenfield HS. Patricia Ottaway and Robert Hanneman. We discussed some of the uses of and programs for the ATARI that could be used for education. I told them that one of the advantages of a Users Group was the sharing of information. So, if you have any educational or instructional type programs, so fill out a software review form and turn it in. Lets help them get these computers running right, with some good programs. The only way they're going to find out what's good or bad is from you.

And while we're on the subject of programs. Bruce Freistedt and Ron Friedel have issued a call for library contributions. And they would remind you that any copyrighted programs should be the originals with original documentation. Copies of the disk library will be available at the October meeting.

Rumors concerning the upgrading of the 400 keyboard grow stronger. Latest new system rumor is that the newest computer will be called the 600. Conflicting descriptions. One has it with dual processors (16/8 bit) with CP/M capabilites. A new author for the Creative Computing mag. ATARI feature. That's probably why it was missing last month.

As far as ATARI Inc. is concerned MILATARI is comming up on its first birthday (actually we're much older). So to honor this occasion we'd like to find a name for the newsletter and/or the new BBS. Bring your ideas to the meeting.

THE DISKS ARE IN---THE DISKS ARE IN---THE DISKS ARE IN--- NO FOOLIN'---REALLY---WOULD I KID YOU?

After a short(?) delay (It wasn't my fault...REALLY) the disk order has finally arrived. We got WABASH SSSD disks instead of generics. Price for those who paid in advance is \$18 per box of

ten. Disks will be sold at the meeting for \$19 a box. Those people who allready paid will receive thier refunds when Larry returns from his vacation cruise. (Honest! And you wondered what we did with all the dues we collected)

Do the name Nolan Bushnell sound familiar? It should. He was one of founders of ATARI. Well, he left ATARI a couple of years ago and signed a non-competative clause which expires soon (like almost any day). Word has it that he's ready to come back into the computer/game market with a product that will blow the doors of most of the competition. Don't laugh, after all PONG was a revolutionary product for its time. And with the advancements in technology these last few years. Makes you wonder.

Parting words.....If builders built houses the way programmers wrote programs, then the first woodpecker that came along would destroy civilization.....

 MICROCOMPUTERS and MAGIC
 256 1/2 W. Broadway
 Waukesha, WI 53186
 (414) 548-0700

 MICROCOMPUTERS



We have just added a new day to the calendar: MilatariDAY. That's right, MilatariDAY!!

The third Saturday of each month is MilatariDAY at Microcomputers and Magic in Waukesha and We are running specials on MilatariDAY for all Milatari members.

This month we are featuring:

Item:	List price	MilatariDAY price*
SLIME by SYNAPSE	\$34.95	\$26.95
CENTIPEDE by ATARI	44.95	36.95
ASSEMBLER EDITOR by ATARI	59.95	49.95
All APEX Software in stock		20% off
INSIDE ATARI DOS by COMPUTE	19.95	14.95
S.A.M. (Software Automatic Mouth)	59.95	53.95

*(sale prices apply to in stock items only)

Stop in before the Milatari meeting on Saturday (MilatariDAY) for a chat and to take advantage of these sale items.

We are here to serve you - Greg - Mary - Mike - Rich

PROGRAM CONSOLE KEYS

by Don Wilcox

Here is a short program for using the yellow console keys to control branching or menu selection.

```

90 REM DON WILCOX SEPT. 1982
100 REM YELLOW CONSOLE KEYS FOR PROGRAM CONTROL
110 REM LOCATION (ADDRESS) 53279 CONTAINS THE VALUE CREATED BY PRESSING
    THE YELLOW CONSOLE KEYS
120 REM LOCATION 53279 NORMALLY CONTAINS THE DECIMAL VALUE (7). THE
    VALUE IS TEMPORARILY CHANGES TO (8) DURING
130 REM THE VERTICAL BLANK PERIOD. (WHEN THE TV LINE SCANNER GOES BACK
    TO THE TOP OF THE TV SCREEN AFTER
140 REM REACHING THE BOTTOM OF THE SCREEN). DON'T WORRY ABOUT THIS AS
    YOU WILL NOT PEEK A VALUE OF (8)
150 REM USING BASIC.
160 REM IT IS BEST TO POKE AN (8) INTO THIS LOCATION BEFORE PEEKING IT TO
    MAKE SURE PRIOR VALUES HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY ERASED
170 POKE 53279,8
180 YELLOW=PEEK(53279)
190 REM IF YELLOW = 7 THEN NO CONSOLE KEYS HAVE BEEN PRESSED
200 YELLOW=PEEK(53279)
210 IF YELLOW=7 THEN GOTO 170
220 IF YELLOW=3 THEN PRINT "OPTION KEY PRESSED"
230 IF YELLOW=5 THEN PRINT "SELECT KEY PRESSED"
240 IF YELLOW=6 THEN PRINT "START KEY PRESSED"
250 IF YELLOW=1 THEN PRINT "OPTION AND SELECT KEYS PRESSED"
260 IF YELLOW=4 THEN PRINT "SELECT AND START KEYS PRESSED"
270 IF YELLOW=2 THEN PRINT "OPTION AND START KEYS PRESSED"
280 IF YELLOW=0 THEN PRINT "OPTION, SELECT AND START KEYS ALL PRESSED
    SIMULTANEOUSLY"
290 FOR D=1 TO 150:NEXT D:GOTO 170
300 REM DELAY TO SLOW DOWN RESPONSE

```

* * *

NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters which are received from other groups will be cataloged in our club library and are available for any member at our monthly meeting. We are currently receiving newsletters from:

- the Atari Computer Association of Orange County, Ca.
- the Madison Wisconsin Atari Users
- the Michigan Atari Computer Enthusiasts
- the West Valley ATARI Users Group
- the TwinCity ATARI Interest Group
- the ATARI Computer Club of Toledo
- the Waterloo ATARI users Group
- the Jersey ATARI Computer Group
- the Birmingham Atari Group
- the Austin Atari Computer Enthusiasts

We thank those groups for their participation in newsletter exchange.

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MILATARI CLUB
NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING POLICY

Short, non-commercial ads will be printed for members at no charge.

COMMERCIAL ADS will be printed for the following rates:

1/2 page = \$5.00 full page = \$10.00

All ads must be submitted by the first Friday of the month, be photocopy ready, accompanied by a check for the amount due.

* * *

UNCLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: MICRO-CONNECTION direct connect modem/300 BAUD auto dial/auto answer/> then one month old/asking \$195. CALL Bill Simotti - 352-1790

MINDSTORMS - Children, Computers, and Powerful Ideas - by Seymour Papert

a book review by David Frazer

I have children and I have a computer. Therefore, everyone assumes that I am using my computer to educate my children. GREAT IDEA - yes, but how do I do it?

I will be the first to admit total ignorance about the techniques of teaching, let along using a computer as a teaching tools. So how does one begin to get their children into learning with the aid of the computer. One choice might be to approach your child's instructor at school for help. In many cases this will not be the best approach - in fact you may alienate instead of help your cause because of a large amount of confusion of the role of the compute in education and great fear by many teachers who can not comprehend its role.

In steps Seymour Papert. Papert is Professor of Mathematics a the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is considered the father of LOGO (Atari's PILOT with turtle graphics has its' roots in LOGO). At the LOGO group in the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at MIT, Papert and his colleagues have created learning invironments in which children are communicating with computers in a natural and easy way. **MINDSTORMS** shows how the fundamental concepts of mathematics can be understood and mastered by young children through the use of techniques outlined in the book. Papert describes how the system works, how children learn and progress in the exciting and mind-boggling leaps. In the book Papert takes a hard look at the way mathematics is taught, and show how the math phobia is created in the classrooms and how it can be overcome with the help of computers.

If Papert's theroy of computers in eduction is to prevail, our current method of educating are going to change radically. One paragraph in the introduction sums this up;

"Much of the book is devoted to building up images of the role of the compute very different from the current stereo-types. All of us, professionals as well as laymen, must consciously break the habits we bring to thinking about the computer. Computation is in its infancy. It is hard to think about computers of the future without projecting onto them the prperties and limitations of those we think we know today. And nowhere is this more true than in imagining how computers can enter the world of eductaion. It is not ture to say that the image of a child's relationship with a computer I shall develop here goes far beyond what is common in today's schools. My image does not go beyond: It goes in the oppsite direction." (My underline - df)

I recomend this book to all teachers, parents and computerists. The book is available in hard cover (\$12.95) and soft cover (\$6.95) and is published by Basic Books, Inc./New York. Any book store will be glad to order it for

MILITARI

Milwaukee Area ATARI Users' Group

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership is open to individuals who have an interest in using and programming ATARI computers. The membership includes the subscription to this newsletter and access to the users' library. The membership fee is \$12.00 per year. Single newsletters are \$1.00. A guest may attend one meeting at no charge.

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